

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the above-referenced application, presented herein, be entered prior to examination.

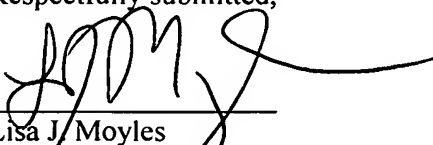
The specification has been amended herein to correct the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section to include the entire lineage from which the present application claims benefit of and priority to.

By way of this amendment, Claims 3-5, 9-13, and 17-20 have been amended, and Claims 1-2, 6- 8, 14-16, and 21-26 are original..

It is believed that no fee is due for entry of the present amendment, however, if it is determined that a fee is required for entry of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the name of United States Surgical Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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